

John A. Salon, et al.  
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REMARKS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/885,478, filed June 20, 2001, now allowed, which is a continuation of PCT International Application No. PCT/US99/31169, filed December 30, 1999, designating the United States of America, which claims priority of and is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 09/244,426, filed December 31, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,221,613 B1, issued April 24, 2001. The parent application, U.S. Serial No. 09/885,478, is pending today in the United States of America, and the subject continuation application is co-pending therewith in fulfillment of the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §120.

By this Preliminary Amendment, applicants have hereinabove amended the specification on page 1 to insert the continuation data. Applicants maintain that the amendments made hereinabove do not raise any issue of new matter.

Applicants have amended the Sequence Listing as follows. The previous version of the Sequence Listing listed the sequence for SEQ ID NO: 24 as "000". Applicants have deleted previous SEQ ID NO: 24 and renumbered previous SEQ ID NO: 25 through SEQ ID NO: 29 as new SEQ ID NO: 24 through SEQ ID NO: 28.

Applicants have amended the specification to delete reference to old SEQ ID NO: 24 on page 74, line 19, and to renumber previous SEQ ID NO: 25 through SEQ ID NO: 29 as new SEQ ID NO: 24 through SEQ ID NO: 28.

Applicants have amended the specification to replace reference to Figure 7, Figure 8, and Figure 10 with reference to Figure 7A-7D, Figure 8A-8B, and Figure 10A-10B, respectively, consistent with the substitute drawings attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.

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Applicants maintain that these amendments to the specification and to the claims raise no issue of new matter and respectfully request that the Amendment be entered.

Claims 1-168 were pending in the subject application. By this Preliminary Amendment, applicants have canceled claims 1-168 without disclaimer or prejudice to applicant's right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in this or another application. Accordingly, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 169-180 will be pending and under examination. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Amendment be entered.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided below.

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No fee, other than the enclosed fee of \$770.00 for filing the subject application, is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment. However, if any additional fee be found necessary, authorization is hereby given to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. White", is written over a horizontal line.

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